

REMARKS

This is a Response to the Final Office Action mailed June 20, 2007, in which a three (3) month Shortened Statutory Period for Response has been set and which expires September 20, 2007. Twenty-three (23) claims, including two (2) independent claims, were paid for in the application. Claims 1, 17, 18, 20 and 28 are currently amended. Claim 15 is cancelled. Claims 28-31 are withdrawn. Claims 1, 3, 5-10, 12, 13, 17, 18, 20-23, 25-26, and 28-31 are pending. No new matter has been added to the application. The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Objections to the Claims

Claims 15, 17, 18, and 20-22 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner indicated that claims 15, 17, 18, and 20-22 would be allowable if rewritten independent from to include all of the limitations of their respective base claim and any intervening claim. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 15, 17, 18 and 20-22.

Amendments to the Claims

Prior to entry of this Amendment, claim 15 depended from claim 1, and claims 17, 18 and 20-22 were dependent upon claim 15. By way of this amendment, claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 15, and claims 17, 18 and 20-22 have been amended to depend from claim 1. Thus, Applicants submit that claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Furthermore, claims 3, 5-10, 12, 13, 17, 18, 20-23, and 25-26 which depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 are also in condition for allowance.

Claim 31 is withdrawn and has been amended to correct a clerical error. Claim 31 has been amended to depend from claim 28, which is also withdrawn.

Conclusion

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are allowable. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider this application and timely allow all pending claims. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Mr. Ringer by telephone to discuss the above and any other distinctions between the claims and the applied references, if desired. If the Examiner notes any informalities in the claims, he is encouraged to contact Mr. Ringer by telephone to expediently correct such informalities.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
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